

R E M A R K S

Claims 1- 4, 6, 8-10, 12 -14, 16, and 20 are in the application, with claims 1, 14, and 20 having been amended and claims 5, 15, and 21 having been cancelled. Claims 1, 14, 16, and 20 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his call on January 10, 2008 regarding the allowability of claim 16.

Furthermore, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of previously submitted claims 5, 15, and 21. Each of these dependent claims has been added to their respective independent claim. Therefore, claims 1, 14, and 20 and their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 16 recites a similar limitation to previously submitted claims 5, 15, and 21 and is therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The outstanding Office Action presents a number of characterizations regarding the applied references, some of which are not directly addressed by this response. Applicants do not necessarily agree with the characterizations and reserve the right to further discuss those characterizations.

For at least the reasons given above, it is submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Alternatively, if there remains any question regarding the present application or any of the cited references, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-4982.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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